

# THE GARZETTE

## 1998 Field Day Event Special Edition

JUNE 27TH Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society 24Hrs

### Welcome To Field Day 1998

by Mark Kozma, KD3GC

Wow! Can you believe that it's been a year since last Field Day? Where has all the time gone? It must mean that we are very busy as a club, and have many opportunities to get involved and make the time go that much faster. As the old saying goes; "Time's fun when you're having flies". Well something like that. There has been a lot going on, and we have been involved in many different activities ranging from just having fun (GARS picnic) to the very seriousness of disaster communications. With what has happened this spring I think this Field day will be viewed a little differently this year.

I guess for most of us the dates of March 20th and April 9th will be etched in our brains for years to come. I hope that the feeling of pride that comes from being an ARES member, and a member of GARS during that time of need never grows dim in our hearts. But isn't this what it's all about? We've heard it all to many times that Amateur Radio is a service and not just a hobby. The tornadoes were pretty bad, but it could have been a whole lot worse, but once again Amateur Radio was there to provide communications for the Red Cross and the community at large. The things that we practice emergency communications for, happened, and ARES, and GARS were ready because we were prepared. We practiced and educated ourselves with the hopes that we would never have to use what we learned, but none the less, we were ready.

Well, guess what folks? It's time to practice again. It's time to get ready! Field Day is nothing more than an exercise to see if we as hams are ready to put up functional portable stations under less than optimal conditions. Right after the April 9<sup>th</sup> storms were less than optimal conditions, yet we went out and put up portable antennas and stations and did the job that was asked. The best part of Field Day is that it is not during an actual disaster, but it could be. This club has time and time again stepped up and taken the bull by the horns, and will continue to do so. That kind of involvement is what makes this club a joy to part of. There is no doubt in my mind

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### Inside This Edition

Welcome to the 1998 Field Day Edition of the GARZETTE.

We have several articles from members that you will find very amusing.

Some of them you may have heard about and some you may have seen.

This year while you are at field day bring along a camera or a pad of paper to jot down what happens to you or your friends.

Hope to see you there.

David, KA4KKF

Field Day 1998 Special Edition



## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of Amateur Radio.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text file or Microsoft Word file by EMAIL to ad4pz@aol.com. Art can be accepted in most formats on a IBM formatted disk or email as an unencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of exchange.

***Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.***

GARZETTE Editor

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Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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ATTN: Newsletter Editor

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## The President's Pen Field Day Edition

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

It's that time of year again when the weather turns hot and humid, school is out, and Field Day is upon us. Yes, it's time for that annual event when you can tell your spouse or loved one that I'm going to go play radio for 24 hours and not get in trouble. Well, not much trouble anyway.

Since I've been a member of **GARS** and a licensed amateur (I got my license and joined the club in the same month in 1994) I've always looked forward to Field Day. The first year I really didn't know what to expect and I'm sure that quite a few of you reading this are in the same boat. But after I went to my first one I couldn't wait until the next year when we'd do it again.

As the club has matured, grown, and gotten more active over the past few years we've seen the same pattern in our Field Day activities. But to get here from there required some dedicated effort by our Field Day Chairmen. In 1995, Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ took the reigns and started us down the path to our present level of activity. Operating as a 5A operation, Vince led us to a Field Day with a total score higher than any previous **GARS** Field Day. Vince also retained the fun aspect of a **GARS** Field Day with lots of socializing and camaraderie. But one of the great things that Vince did was to document everything he did and turn over to his successor a notebook detailing his planning and implementation.

In 1996, a Field Day Committee was formed and Joe Biddle, AD4PZ stepped forward to take the reigns as Chairman. Using the notes and planning effort laid down by Vince, Joe took us yet another step forward in organization, planning, and implementation. Once again operating as a 5A operation, we again bettered our previous year's score while still retaining the flavor of a **GARS** event. I can still remember the thunderstorm break to vote in some new members and Howie Gould, W4NVF imitating a YL trying to work Hawaii in the wee hours of Sunday morning. As his last act as Field Day Chairman, Joe took his notes detailing his operation and passed them along to the next Field Day Chairman to use in building upon his success.

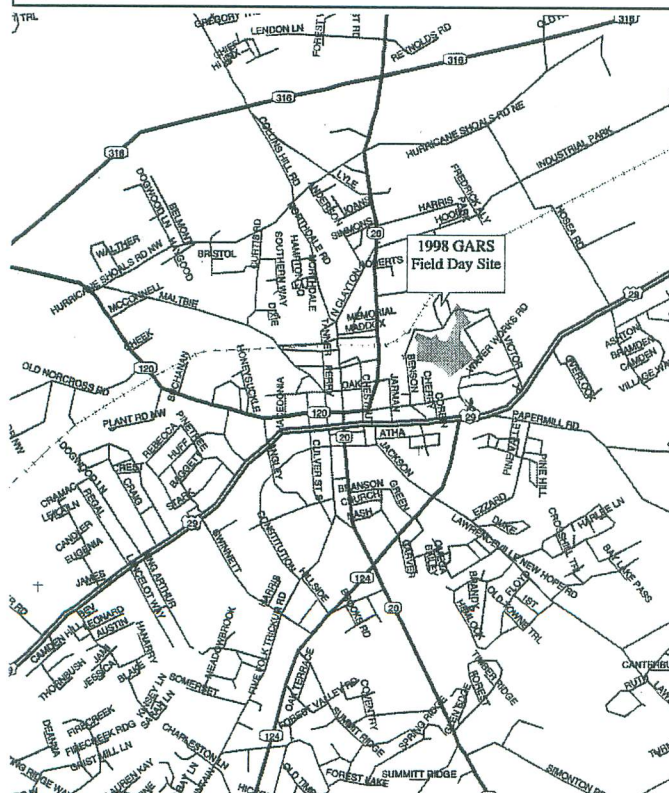
Another year, another chairman and another committee with Field Day 1997. Mark Kozma,

*(Continued on page 5)*



## ...Welcome

Just as last year, none of this could have been done without the hard work of this year's Field Day Committee, and the many coordinators that stepped up to help. This is just another example of this club's character. Thank them when you get a chance, because they deserve a pat on the back for what they have done on your behalf. Let's have a great time, make a lot of contacts, take first place in the 7A category, and show the country that GARS is ready!



**Directions:**  
**Rhodes Jordan Park**  
**Lawrenceville,GA**

**From downtown Lawrenceville take the first left after the intersection of GA 124 and Crogan next to the baseball fields and the swimming pool. Follow that road around and past the baseball fields and around the lake. The GARS Field Day site will be on the right at the top of the hill in the two large pavilions.**



## Man On A Mission

By Jud Whately, W4NZJ

The weatherman on TV said it has been the rainiest June on record. I can't even think of a day that it hasn't rained this month. In fact, I've been on the road since 6:00am and I think it has rained in every state I've been in. I have never seen so much rain, but that doesn't matter. I'M A MAN ON A MISSION!

A man on a mission is focused on nothing more than the task at hand, and not rain nor sleet nor snow will stop me from my appointed rounds. Ah, yes, 7:30 PM and the skyline of Philly is now coming into view. As I'm heading north on I95 one of my most important destinations of my mission is now on the left. Veterans stadium! Home of the Philadelphia Phillies! Can't spend 4 days in Philly without watching my favorite team play. "A man's got to know his limitations". As I head northward, I watched the city get smaller in my rearview, and with the suburban stomping grounds of my youth just ahead, I was feeling pretty good.

As Friday morning dawned, I woke up with a sore throat. Must have yelled a little too much while I was at the ball game yesterday. Oh well, A sore throat is not going to stop me. I'M A MAN ON A MISSION! It was only a short drive over to Jason Glieter's house and the resting-place of my 5-element 10-meter mono bander. I had left it there from the previous 10-meter contest from the December before. My mind was never surer of the task ahead. Time to take it down and get it ready for the real reason for the trip.

Saturday morning, feeling a little hangover (too many 807's from the night before). If you play sometimes you got to pay, but that's all right because I'M A MAN ON MISSION!

Driving down the road, I feel the coffee start

to unfog my brain and my resolve has never been stronger. There it is, just ahead, my destination. A large field on top of a hill that overlooks Doylestown, Pennsylvania. As I search for the perfect spot and point my car in that direction, the thought of it being one of the rainiest Junes in Pennsylvania never crosses my mind until the forward motion feeling I was experiencing seemed to go away. Right up to the axles in mud. What a fine how do ya do this was. Not to worry though, because I'M A MAN ON A MISSION!

Did I fail to mention that this is a Field Day story? Well it is! The last weekend in June 1989, and I was there. This was my third and final Field Day with the Warminster Amateur Radio Club, and this one was a biggie, 10 alpha. After finding a dry place to set up, the first order of the day was to put up the 5-element 10-meter mono bander. Don't you just love it when a plan comes together? There were antennas going up everywhere, and each Band Captain and team knew just what to do. Talk about wire and aluminum overcast. The 10-meter station had the 5 element mono bander on a push-up mast. 15 meters had a 3 element mono bander on a 30ft tower. The 20 meter station had a set up similar to ours with a 40ft tower on a trailer and a tribander. 40 meter phone had a 3 element wire beam supported by 2 push-up masts, pointed southwest (over 1500 contacts were made on that thing). 40-meter cw had V beam pointed southwest also. The 75-meter phone station had a zepp in the inverted V configuration and fed with 450-ohm ladder line, and the 80-meter cw was using a full size quarter wave vertical. That thing was tall and a sight to behold. There was a VHF station that had an 8-element home-brewed quad that was motorized so it could have either horizontal or vertical polarization. The Novice station had a 3 element mono band beam for 10 meters and multiband dipole for the cw subbands. It was sight that hams long

*(Continued on page 5)*



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### ...mission

for and dream about.

What a weekend it was. The only thing that would have made it as good as a GARS Field Day would have been the food. The food just didn't measure up to size of the event, but none the less, it was a very successful weekend. We took the 10 alpha category that year. Maybe it was because we were the only ones who entered in it! Or maybe it was that we were the only ones who had the guts to pull it off?

Well, finally after a very exhausting Field Day it was time to rest up and reflect back upon a trip worth taking. The next morning would be an early one, and the thought of that 850 mile drive back to Atlanta was not a pleasant one, but I would have good things to think about on the way home. Just me and a Datsun 210 filled with a 10-meter mono bander, clothes, and some more radio gear, but.....I WAS A MAN ON A MISSION!

Gwinnett County ARES Coordinator.  
KM4Z Lorry Rouse

**Good Luck GARS!**



(Continued from page 2) ...The Pres

KD3GC was recruited by Howie to take the job. Mark formed his committee and began to plan for the coming event. But this time Mark upped the ante and planned for a 7A operation. We had a great time, great food, and ended up with top score for 7A in the state and one of the best is the US. Mark's committee used the blueprints laid down by Vince and Joe and went further even to the point of doing a survey of the site using GPS and then having a map of the site done in a CAD program to plan antenna locations.

I wondered after Field Day last year who I was going to recruit to take Mark's place as Chairman but I didn't have to wonder long or look far. Mark signed up for another term and went out and recruited another great committee to support him. This year we'll run as a 7A operation again and I look forward to beating our score from last year. We've got some great things planned this year, I know that Carter Wood, KF4HLF and his food committee have some new things planned for us on the menu this year. We'll have some new antenna configurations to work with and an expanded UHF/VHF operation with a dynamite six meter set up.

At this past year's Christmas Party, Sharon Adcock made the suggestion that we should have had a can-a-thon in conjunction with the party. Well, the idea sounded good to me so we're taking her idea and using it at Field Day. We asking that everyone that attends the **GARS** Field Day bring a can of food, or a package of non-perishable food items, or a personal care item (soap, razor, etc.). Susan Swiderski, AF4FO has contacted the Norcross Combined Ministries and we're going to turn over all donated items to them to assist in their relief efforts.

We'll also have some special awards to hand out after the fact as we did last year, some serious and some humorous. If you know someone that is interested in ham radio and hasn't been on the air yet, bring them by and we'll put them on the air and they'll get a First Contact Award certificate commemorating their contact. And there'll be other things to get your interest.

I hope that you'll take the time to come out, enjoy some good **GARS** fellowship, get on the air and operate and help us break last year's total, and generally have a good time and enjoy yourself. See you there!



## GARS Field Day Talk In

**Need directions to the GARS field day site? A talk in will be run on the GARS 2 meter repeater, 147.075 (+)MHZ. The talk in will begin on Saturday morning about 0800. Use the GARS 440 repeater as an alternate communications link. We'll use 146.505 MHZ as a simplex talk around at the site.**

## Field Day

by David, KA4KKF

It was field day weekend 199?. GARS had volunteered for this bike race in the northern part of the county. We had about 20-30 people for the race and it was supposed to be over by 1:00 or so.

We had several guys setup field day camp at one of the check points. Everything is still working out ok.

We got through with the race and the weather was still partly cloudy. I think we had 3 radios setup in various tents at the site. Some of you may remember this better than I do. Everything was going great till the storms hit. It rained and rained some more. One of the radios had water dumped into it from the overhang. If I'm not mistaken everyone quit and unplugged all the antennas. That was an interesting weekend. Let's see, can I remember who was there. If you see these guys ask them about what happened. KD4KCR, AD4S, KD4VHG, W4WKP.

## Field Day "Characters"

by Jud, W4NZJ

Field Days are obviously educational in that we learn to prepare for emergencies. They are opportunities to have fun, of course, and to demonstrate amateur radio to members of the general public. However, one aspect of Field Day events not often mentioned is the opportunity to learn the individual quirks of your "fellow" hams. I have probably participated in about 30 during my time as an amateur and several friends always stand out vividly in my mind.

Three such friends are definitely worth mentioning. Several years ago, I recounted my experiences about one....Dan, WB4RGS, a Biology Professor at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. Without repeating myself unnecessarily, Dan was/is the one who loved nature and enjoyed being out in the woods enjoying nature. As some may also recall, he is also the same one who panicked when a "June bug" landed on his neck while he and I were in my convertible leaving the field day camp. His thrashing about in the car causing me to fall from the car and being dragged. Luckily, there were no injuries...other than later when I did get my hands on his skinny little neck!

Don, WB4 Fox-On a Kayak (WB4FOK), is a totally different story. Don is from South Dakota. He defines the term "laid back". How "laid back" is Don? Simply put...an alligator basking in the sun is much more anxious than Don in strict comparison! Now, that is really being laid back! One particular field day, Don brought his camper and Heath SB-110 6 meter transceiver and set up accordingly. We had been operating about 10 hours when our generator ran out of gas and all electricity was momentarily shutdown. Everything went black in our camp EXCEPT for Don's camper! We still heard him calling "CQ 6 meters". "How could that be?", we all asked ourselves. So we rushed over and asked Don. He quietly responded, "I really get hot down here in the South and I figured we would eventually lose our electricity. I

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6) **...CHARACTERS**

didn't want to bother any of you so I merely disconnected from the generator and hooked up to the commercial electricity provider". Although his actions were in violation of the Field Day rules, we all started laughing uncontrollably because of his nonchalant reply and attitude! Again, a few years later, I took Don's photo about 2:00 AM as he sat in front of his SB-110, head propped on his hands and in front of the microphone...fast asleep! His last log entry was 00:38!

Grady, K4BEC, on the other hand, was/is a dedicated CW enthusiast much like Howie and Duane. He is a very determined, hard working, and humorous operator. We ALWAYS invited Grady to each and every field day but it wasn't necessarily for those aforementioned qualities. You see, Grady would have a few drinks of liquor before and during the field day. Most would think this might impair his operating skills. It may have but we learned that when he perspired, his body emitted an aroma that seemed to attract mosquitoes and chiggers...away from us and to him.. that was very important to us! As long as Grady was around, we found that we were safe from such annoyances. One year, poor 'OLE Grady stayed at the field day site the entire time and later had to be admitted to the hospital because he had so many bites! That happened to be the year that our team scored it highest field day score EVER!

It wasn't because of our operating skills...it was because as long as Grady was there to distract the mosquitoes and chiggers, we were able to operate uninterrupted!

Field Day events are definitely fun, exciting, and educational; but more than that, they are times to learn about each other and enjoy each other's company! I am sure that there are operators and friends like Don or Grady in our large, fine organization. Just look around and you will see them. They and others are who make ham radio so enjoyable, fun, and entertaining!

## GARS Field Day Committee

**Chairman**  
**Mark Kozma, KD3GC**

**Members**  
Don Button, AJ1T  
David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Susan Swiderski, AF4FO  
Earl Whatley, AF4FG  
Carter Wood, KF4HLF  
Alan Johnston, KF4PZZ  
Kevin McClure, KF4HFN

**Don't forget the**

## **CAN-A-THON**

**This year GARS would like  
to with your help donate to  
the community canned food  
items and Toiletries.**

**These item will go to the  
Norcross**

**Cooperative Ministry  
So when you come to the  
Field Day Site Please drop  
your donation can item  
In the collection bin.**



## Memories of field days past

by Rob Huckaby, WA4GKI

I remember one field day some 30 years ago because of an incident with a truck. Some of the equipment, including a skid-mounted 10kW generator was delivered to the field day site on a borrowed flatbed truck. The field day site was a farm and we used an equipment shed at the top of a hill as our operating facility. After we unloaded the equipment, we parked the truck off to the side on a slope next to the equipment shed, leaving it in gear but not setting the brakes.

Early the next morning, one of the operators decided to make the trek into town for breakfast. He climbed into the truck and depressed the clutch to start the engine - and rolled down the slope into the side of a hog pen, sending fencing, the pen, and pigs flying. This was a rather rude reminder that air brakes don't work until the engine is running and air pressure has built up. Fortunately all the pigs survived, but several escaped. I guess this could be another example of hams getting out on field day.

## Operating Hours:

**Saturday,**  
**June 27,1998 - 2PM local**  
**to**

**Sunday,**  
**June 28,1998 - 2PM local**

**Callsign: W4G**

**Class: 7A**

**Section: Georgia**

## Constant Cooking Concept

Anyone who works as hard as GARS members do at Field Day needs proper sustenance. Don't expect to go hungry at Field Day 1998. We will start the repast with 'Make Your Own' deli style sandwiches for lunch on Saturday. Eat with one hand and hang wire with the other. The bakeshop starts in the afternoon.

For dinner on Saturday night we'll have Turkey and most of the fixin's. Triptathane notwithstanding, we'll work a lot of contacts and then be hungry again for the 'Midnight Meal'. Back by popular request will be Nova Whatley's soon to be world famous gumbo. Save room for desert cause there's cobbler and cakes in Boy Scout Dutch ovens all night. After some clean up, we'll serve breakfast starting at 6am. 'Breakfast Burritos' are again scheduled. Make your own and enjoy with cinnamon rolls as at '97. Sunday lunch is whatever is left over. Eat it all or we throw it away.

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to help us with the gear to keep the kitchen running? We need every ice chest in the county. Extra coffee makers help us insure that a fresh pot is always available in both the regular and unleaded varieties. Please contact our chief bottle washer, Carter Wood at 770.923.9667 if you have anything to loan. Email is KF4HLF@Juno.com -  
'Thank you for your support'!

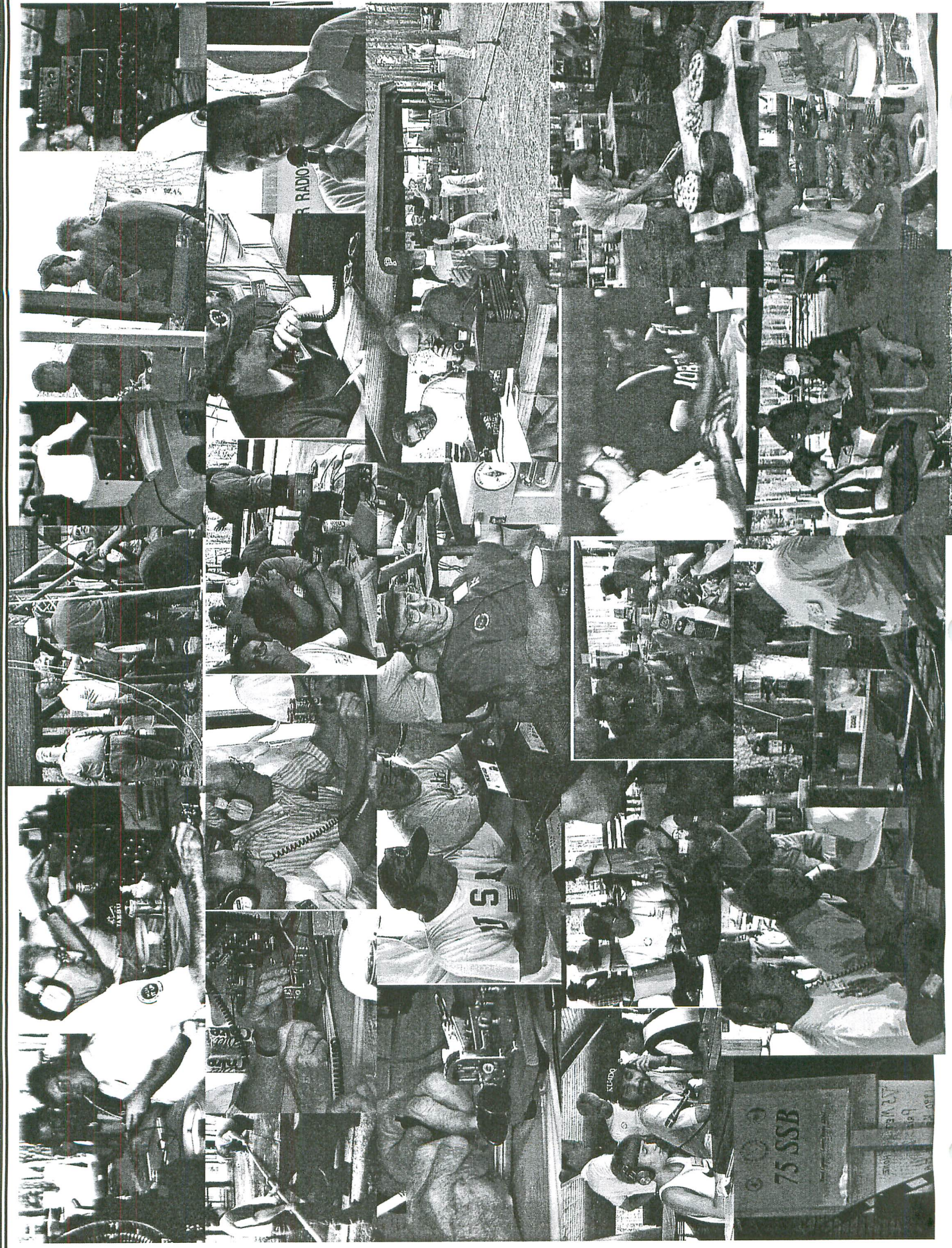




**GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY 1997 FIELD DAY**  
**Where over 180 Visitors Called GARS Field Day**  
**"The Event"**









## **GARS Apparel**

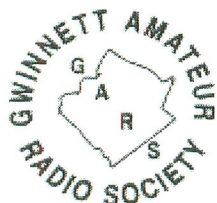
Golf Shirt (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$24
With Name & Call Sign	\$28
Tee Shirt (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$20
With Name & Call Sign	\$20
Light Weight Jacket (Red only)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$31
With Name & Call Sign	\$35
Heavy Weight Jacket (Red only)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$41
With Name & Call Sign	\$45
Sweat Shirt (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$30
With Name & Call Sign	\$30
GARS Logo Call Sign Badges     \$8	
Baseball Style Hats (White or Red)	
W/O Name & Call Sign	\$8
With Name & Call Sign	\$12
Sweatshirt, Jacket & Hat	
Remove old call sign	\$7
Add new call sign	\$5
Contact: AF4FO Susan Swiderski at (770) 449-0369 or K4HBI Mike via email -> swiderski@lucent.com	



# THE GARZETTE

JUNE 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on JULY 16 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

JUNE 1998

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)  
Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364  
Johnson High School WCARS VEC  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496  
N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,  
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,  
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
W5YI-VEC  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks  
Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
Headphones Provided!

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Tue	28.420	7:30PM	Ten Meter Traders Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	145.15-	8:00PM	Stinger Net GT ARC
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.